

Bangkok Declaration
adopted at
THE EAST ASIA MINISTERIAL FORUM
ON FAMILIES AND GENDER EQUALITY
22 December 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

1.Having gathered at the East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families and Gender Equality on 22nd December 2016, in Bangkok, we, the Ministers and the Heads of delegation responsible for family and the realization of gender equality from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, Timor- Leste, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam shared experiences and discussed ways to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals through the promotion of family development and gender equality policies and programs. We;

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- 2. Underscore** the importance of a family - friendly environment as an important factor to improve people’s well-being and quality of life, as stated in the Seoul Declaration: Joint Statement by the Ministers and the Heads of Delegation for the 6th East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families (EAMFF) held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in 2014; **1**
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- 3. Reaffirm** our determination to achieve gender equality and promote regional solidarity, communication, friendship and cooperation among women of East Asian countries as reflected in the Beijing Joint Ministerial Communiqué adopted at the 5th East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (EAGEMM) held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China in 2013; **10**
- 4. Welcome** the consolidation of the two interrelated fora, the EAMFF and the EAGEMM, organized for the first time in Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 December 2016 under the theme “A Family–Friendly Society: A Contribution to the Achievement of SDGs through Families and Gender Equality” and the commitment of participating countries to the achievement of gender equality, empowerment of all women and girls and the promotion of a family-friendly environment; **15**
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- 5. Recall** the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by Heads of State and Government at the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, and recognize

that the 2030 Agenda includes important goals and targets related to family and gender equality; **1**

6. Appreciate the progress made by all participating countries regarding women's empowerment, gender equality and family development, and commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals through the implementation of relevant international treaties and agreements, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasions of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security as well as other relevant treaties; **5**
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7. Recognize that, in spite of many advancements, emerging political, economic, social and cultural challenges and gaps remain in areas such as leadership, participation in decision-making, access to economic opportunities, health, education, the elimination of gender-based violence, climate change and migration; **20**

8. Reaffirm that family is a fundamental unit of society that contributes to development, and that women's empowerment and gender equality plays an essential role in enhancing the well-being of families and society; **1**

9. Recognize the diversity of and challenges in families as nationally appropriate, and to take measures that address their needs and concerns. **5**

10. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation at the East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families and Gender Equality, are determined to: **10**

a. Integrate gender perspectives in family development policies;

b. Formulate and develop policies and programs to support and build resilient families and to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women to promote gender equality; **15**

c. Establish and strengthen mechanisms to eliminate the multiple and intersecting forms of violence against women, children and other family members;

d. Take all necessary measures to promote women's full and meaningful participation in all spheres of life and at family, community, national and international levels; **20**

e. Promote and enhance women's potential and leadership through capacity building to become effective agents of change; **1**

f. Take appropriate and special measures to increase women's participation in public-private life balance; **5**

g. Recognize the unpaid care and domestic work within families through the provision of public services, infrastructure and relevant social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within households and families;

h. Support social services for individuals and families; **10**

i. Develop and implement policies on gender equality and family that emphasize the roles of parents and caregivers as educators and role models for transmitting knowledge, good values, life-skills and reproductive health (as appropriate) to their children; **15**

j. Engage men and boys to take a more proactive role in combating gender-based discrimination and ending violence against women and girls, and promote positive models of masculinity, through different measures such as education, media and gender equality policies, where appropriate; **20**

k. Encourage the private and public sectors to develop gender-sensitive, family-friendly and flexible work arrangement policies;

l. Adopt and Implement inclusive and gender-responsive family policies that embrace all members of the family including women, men, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities; **1**

m. Enhance networking and partnership among public sectors, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, academia, and media to ensure exchanges and sharing of good practices and resources at all levels; **5**

n. Undertake appropriate measures to conduct research and collect sex disaggregated data and gender statistics to inform evidence based policies and programs and monitor and evaluate progress and outcomes; **10**

11. We thank the Royal Thai Government for hosting this Forum and express our appreciation for its warm hospitality. **15**
We look forward to meeting again at the next forum to be held in 2018.